

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 146, 147, and 148 due to medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 146, 147, and 148.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 29, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote Nos. 146, 147, and 148, I would have voted the following way: Rollcall vote No. 146 "Aye"; rollcall vote No. 147 "Aye"; rollcall vote No. 148 "Aye."

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 205) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 205

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Resources: Mr. PUTNAM.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: pursuant to (section 1238(b)(3)) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-398), I hereby reappoint Mr. George Becker of Pennsylvania, for a term to expire on December 31, 2005 and Mr. Michael Wessel of Virginia, for a term to expire on December 31, 2004, to the United States-China Security Review Commission.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

AFRICA ON BRINK OF DEVASTATING FAMINE

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I cannot believe it is happening again. A famine worse than the one that devastated Ethiopia in 1984 threatens the lives of millions of Africans. This is happening right now, today, and tragically, very

few people are even aware of the gravity of the situation.

This month's edition of Christianity Today includes an article detailing the imminent devastation. Africa is on the brink of a crisis of Biblical proportions, yet regular readers of The Washington Post, The New York Times, and nearly every other major news outlet would have no idea.

In 1984, 8 million people were in need of food aid. This past January, more than 11 million people struggled for their next meal. When I visited Ethiopia in January, I saw women and children, one, this young girl, who were too weak to feed themselves. Today, the situation is even more distressing.

The war in Iraq has demanded our attention, but we cannot allow this silent emergency to grow worse. The lives of millions of women and children depend on this story being shared loudly and boldly. How will history judge our response if millions die while more could have been done.

Madam Speaker, I include a copy of a letter I sent to President Bush regarding this matter, and factual information regarding Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The material referred to is as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to encourage you to recommend that a special envoy for hunger be appointed by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

While Jim Morris, the director of the World Food Programme, is aggressively drawing attention to this crisis, it was distressing to read the recent cable from the American ambassador in Ethiopia describing a grimmer outlook for the coming months than had previously been expected. The cable and the latest NOAA weather forecast (both enclosed), which revises expectations for crop viability downward, paint a bleak outlook for millions of Ethiopians for months to come. Perhaps you might want to look at this idea and urge the U.N. to appoint this special envoy for a year.

I know that the U.S. has undertaken a number of other steps to respond to the famine in Ethiopia and around the world, but I feel that while the United States is doing a good job, it is important to enlist greater help from the other nations who have not fully participated. I am in no way doubting Mr. Morris's efforts or abilities, but believe that a special envoy could augment and complement his efforts.

Many European news outlets have run stories in recent days on the growing number of Africans, whose lives are now in jeopardy. The Ethiopian Government is planning another 'Live-Aid' concert to re-energize the donor community and draw international attention to the situation. The momentum of this concert, coupled with the appointment of a U.N. special envoy, may help draw enough attention and resources to the continent and save the lives of millions of women and children.

In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about the obligation to feed the hungry. I have noticed that in these villages and camps in Africa, it is the women and the children who are powerless and who are dying.

Your consideration would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CLIMATE INFORMATION AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS FOR ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Background—This report contains the latest information from the Department of Commerce (DOC)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on weather and climate status, impact and outlook, including potential impacts on food security or hydrology for the following countries (the Appendix describes the weekly Africa Weather Hazards Assessment also attached):

Eastern Africa: Eritrea, Ethiopia.

CLIMATE STATUS, IMPACT AND OUTLOOK

Eastern Africa: These countries are just entering their rainy season. Emphasis is on current conditions and the impacts suggested by the seasonal forecasts.

ERITREA

Climatology

Eritrea has two major climate regimes, the desert lowland climate and the wetter, cooler highland climate.

The desert lowlands extend along the Red Sea coast. Annual rainfall amounts average less than 8 inches and summertime maximum temperatures often exceed 100°F. Nighttime lows during the summer are typically around 90°F.

In the highlands, the climate is cooler and wetter, with annual average rainfall amounts ranging from 18 to 24 inches. In the Eritrean capital, Asmara (elevation ~ 7700 feet), summertime high temperatures are typically in the upper 60s and low 70s with nighttime lows in the upper 50s and lower 60s.

Current Status

Dryness in recent years has resulted in long-term drought conditions across southern Eritrea. Over the last week we have seen a shift in the precipitation patterns with light rainfall extending northward into central and southern Eritrea. Based on the National Weather Service Global Forecast model this rainfall of less than about ½ inch per day is expected to continue through the next 4 days through April 21. Temperatures have been near-normal.

Outlook and Impact

May-July 2003: Near to above normal rainfall and above normal temperatures are expected throughout most of the country, which would benefit seasonal crops. However, poor pasture conditions and long-term moisture deficits are likely to persist.

August-October 2003: Near to above normal rainfall and above normal temperatures are expected throughout most of the country, which would benefit seasonal crops.

ETHIOPIA

Climatology:

Ethiopia has three major climate regimes, the highlands, the southern and eastern parts of the country, and north central Ethiopia.

The highlands cover most of western Ethiopia and are at elevations ranging from 3,000 to well over 8,000 feet. In the Ethiopian Highlands, there is one rainy season which begins in May and runs through September. The heaviest rains typically fall in July and August. From October through April, rainfall is typically light. Average annual rainfall across the Ethiopian Highlands can exceed 60 inches. Average summer maximum temperatures in the highlands are in the 60s and average minimums are in the 50s.

Addis Ababa, the capital and largest city (elevation ~7700 feet), averages 47.7 inches of rainfall per year and has average summertime maximums in the upper 60s and minimums in the mid-50s. However, extremes range from the 30s to the 90s. In general, the mountain weather is highly variable.

In the southern and eastern parts of the country, there are two rainy seasons, separated by a dry season. The first rainy season